MUSI 502—*Conducting*

Spring 2021

Monday, 9:45AM-11:15AM, Hirsch Orchestra Rehearsal Hall

Jerry Hou, Associate Conductor
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will give an introductory overview to different aspects of conducting, including conducting technique, non-verbal communication, score study, score analysis, ear training, rehearsal technique, and rehearsal psychology. The goal is to utilize these skills to enhance musical performance on your instrument. Each class will be divided between topic discussion and actual conducting practice. Classes will meet in a mix of online and in-person. When we do meet in person, students will play their instruments in each class as the ensemble while fellow students conduct.

GRADING POLICY

Grading will be based on attendance, participation, effort, conducting proficiency, and improvement. Grading is distributed as follows: attendance/participation 75% homework/ preparation 25%

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. As the class meets only once per week and is a highly interactive environment, attendance and participation is crucial. If you need to miss a class due to an audition, competition, or professional development, please email me at least a week in advance to request an excused absence. If you are sick or ill, please try to email me before class so I know you will not be there and can plan accordingly. Otherwise, your absence will affect your final grade.

RICE HONOR CODE

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

DISABILITIES

Rice University is committed to equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities. In keeping with the university's mission to provide an unsurpassed education, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides accommodations and support services to students with disabilities.

Please contact me if you have a documented disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Any such discussion will be strictly confidential.

If you have a disability but are not registered with the DRC, any of the faculty can help you with this, or you can contact the DRC directly. The DRC office is located in the Allen Center, Room 111—telephone: (713) 348-5841; fax: (713) 348-5888; e-mail: adarice@rice.edu. Further information may be obtained at https://drc.rice.edu/.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

The syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance warning

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1	*January 25* Introduction - What is conducting? - Non-verbal communication and leadership
Week 2	*February 1* What information can we transmit? - Tempo, meter, style, dynamics, and MORE!
Week 3	*February 8* How to start and end a piece? - Preparatory gestures, cut-offs, fermatas
Week 4	*February 15* What to do with the other hand? - Cues, dynamics, reinforcement, expression
Week 5	*February 22* What to do with the other hand? - Cues, dynamics, reinforcement, expression
Week 6	*March 1* No Class - Sprinkle Day
Week 7	*March 8* Knowing vs. Understanding piece of music? - Score study part 1
Week 8	*March 15* What are you trying to convey? - Translating score study into gesture
Week 9	*March 22* What about character, mood, and drama? Let's make music! - Score study part 2
Week 10	*March 29* How do you make it better? - Rehearsal technique, strategy, and psychology
Week 11	*April 5* I've got rhythm? - Rhythmic stability and mixed meters
Week 12	*April 12* What you see is what you hear? - Ear training and error detection
Week 13	*April 19* Final Project Part 1 - Putting it all together - Internalizing the Music
Week 14	*April 26* Final Project Part 2- Putting it all together - Externalizing the Music